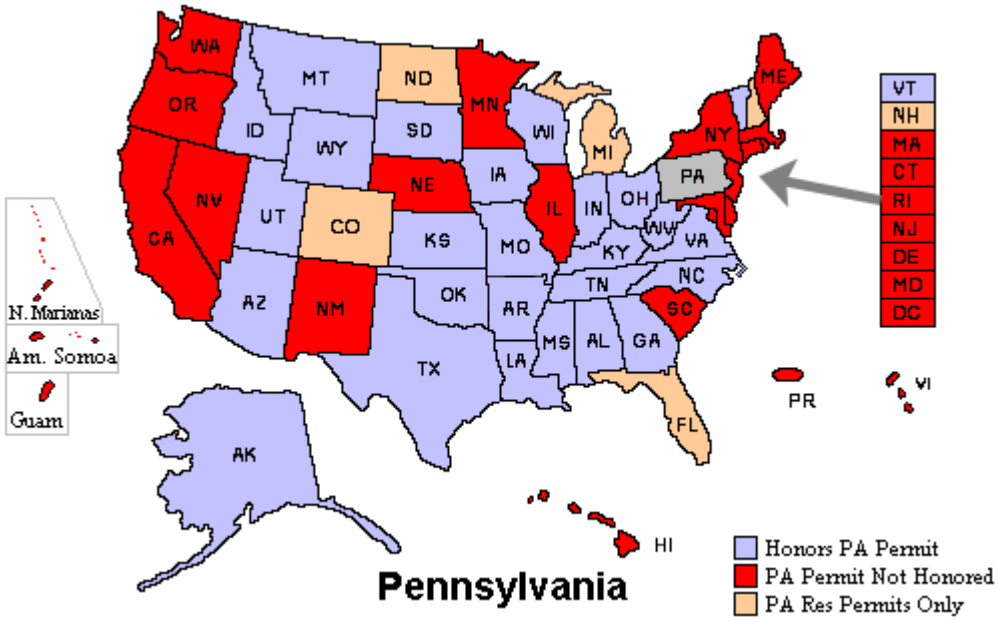
Pennsylvania

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO

(See Must Inform Section)



Note: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming have "Permitless Carry" Anyone who can legally possess a firearm under state and federal law may carry in these states without a Permit. Check each states page for age or other restrictions that may apply.

Pennsylvania CCW Links√

- State CCW Site
- Berks Co CCW Pamphlet
- PA Laws Relating to Firearms 2/15/2023
- Printable Application
- SP Firearms Information
- State FAQ Site
- State Statutes
- State Admin Rules
- State Reciprocity Info **Updated July 2026**
- State Attorney General
- 2nd CCW Info Site
- Department of State
- Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/5/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Notice: Pennsylvania only honors permits from Residents of the states it honors.

Must be 21 Years of Age to carry concealed in Pennsylvania.

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado
Florida	Georgia	**Idaho**[1]	Indiana	Iowa
Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Michigan	Mississippi
Missouri	Montana	New Hampshire	North Carolina	**North Dakota**[2]
Ohio	Oklahoma	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas
Utah[3]	Virginia	West Virginia[3]	Wisconsin	Wyoming

Idaho[1] – PA only honors the ID Enhanced Permit.

North Dakota[2] - PA only honors the ND Class 1 Permit.

Utah[3] & West Virginia[3] – PA only honors the UT & WV Regular Permits.

Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

Title 18 § 18-6109 Reciprocity.

(k)(1) The Attorney General shall have the power and duty to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states providing for the mutual recognition of a license to carry a firearm issued by the Commonwealth and a license or permit to carry a firearm issued by the other state. To carry out this duty, the Attorney General is authorized to negotiate reciprocity agreements and grant recognition of a license or permit to carry a firearm issued by another state.

(2) The Attorney General shall report to the General Assembly within 180 days of the effective date of this paragraph and annually thereafter concerning the agreements which have been consummated under this subsection. June 28, 2011, P.L.48, No.10, §6

Note: To view the signed agreements that Pennsylvania has go Here and clivk on map for agreements.

How to Apply for a Permit

Pennsylvania Superior Court has ruled that PA Residents must have a PA issued Permit to carry in Pennsylvania. See Decision **Here**.

It is very simple to obtain a Pennsylvania Concealed Carry Permit/License. Just take your Pennsylvania Drivers License or State ID. Names, Addresses and Phone numbers of two references and your check book and go to the Sheriff's Office in the county you reside. Tell them you wish to apply for a Permit/License to Carry a Concealed Weapon. Fill out the application and pay the fee. PA Code PA Code 18 Pa.C.S. § 6109 states the total for all costs is to be $20. The Sheriff has 45 days to issue the permit/license or deny it.

Your Permit/License is valid for 5 years.

Emergency Permits

Title 18 § 6109 (m.1) Temporary Emergency Licenses.

This section of the PA Code allows someone who is 21 years of age and has evidence of imminent danger to the person or the person's minor child. They can obtain a permit to carry that is valid for 45 days to protect themselves from this imminent threat. See the Sheriff of the County you reside in for more information and how to apply for that Temporary Emergency License. June 28, 2011, P.L.48, No.10, §6

Note: Some Sheriff's require another form of ID along with Drivers License. Some have Residency Requirement periods up to 90 days. Some require References to be residents of the county you apply in. Some have put other stipulations on issuing Licenses to Carry. Check with your local Sheriff's Office for more information. On Applications most Sheriffs have their own header giving the office and address. Check with your local Sheriff or check online to obtain the form supplied by your county Sheriff.

Non-Resident Permits

Note: You have to have a permit from your home state if your home state issue permits. Unless you are from Vermont which doesn't issue permits. If your state is too restrictive and won't issue you a permit you can't obtain a Non-Resident Pennsylvania Permit/License. Some Sheriffs will not issue to non residents and/or have other stipulations to issue to non-residents. Handgunlaw.us has put together a listing of all the Sheriffs in PA and their Firearm Pages which could help you in finding a Sheriff that issues to non residents.

Links to all Pennsylvania Sheriff's CCW Information Websites

Completed and Signed Application must be accompanied by the following:

1. A photo copy of a license to carry a firearm (concealed carry permit) from your home state if that state has a concealed carry law. If from IL you should bring your FOID Card.
2. A photo copy of your Driver's License.
3. Names, Addresses and Phone #'s of 2 references. (Some counties my not require these for Renewal.)
4. $20.00 fee for five year license and out of state processing.
5. Check with the Sheriffs Dept you are going to visit, as a trip to their office is required with all the material required. Do confirm with them first that they issue to Non-Residents. Some will not!

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

Notice: Democrat **Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney** signed an executive order Tuesday banning the carry of guns — even by concealed permit holders. The order bans guns and other deadly weapons at rec center buildings, athletic courts, fields, playgrounds, and pools. Signs about the prohibition will be displayed at the facilities, the order says, and District Attorney Larry Krasner said his office could charge those in violation with trespassing — even if they are otherwise legally permitted to carry the gun in the city." Courts will most likely strike this down due to PA Preemption Statute but use caution.

- Court Houses (Areas Off Limits Must Be Posted)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Schools?? (See 18-912 and Note On School Carry Below)

Title 18 § 912 Possession of Weapon on School Property.

(a) Definition.--Notwithstanding the definition of "weapon" in section 907 (relating to possessing instruments of crime), "weapon" for purposes of this section shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nun-chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

(b) Offense Defined.--A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he possesses a weapon in the buildings of, on the grounds of, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary publicly-funded educational institution, any elementary or secondary private school licensed by the Department of Education or any elementary or secondary parochial school.

1980 Amendment. Act 167 added section 912.

Note: The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled on Weapons on School Property. From Handgunlaw.us reading the "Other Lawful Purposes" clause can be used as a defense to a charge of carrying on school property if done legally in all other aspects of firearms possession. A very good explanation of the ruling can be found at a **Blog Post** by Attorney Josh Prince, of the Prince Law Offices, P.C. You can also read the Courts Decision **Here**.

Note: **Armed Campus Organization** Has information on all the States Campus Carry Statutes, Regulations and Policies with some covering firearms Policies on each school's campus.

Title 18 Section § 913 Possession of Firearm or Other Dangerous Weapon In Court Facility.

(a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he:
(1) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility; or
(2) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility with the intent that the

firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility with the intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime.

(b) Grading.--

(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3), an offense under subsection (a)(1) is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(2) An offense under subsection (a)(2) is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) Notice of the provisions of subsections (a) and (e) shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each courthouse or other building containing a court facility and each court facility, and no person shall be convicted of an offense under subsection (a)(1) with respect to a court facility if the notice was not so posted at each public entrance to the courthouse or other building containing a court facility and at the court facility unless the person had actual notice of the provisions of subsection (a).

(e) Each county shall make available at or within the building containing a court facility by July 1, 2002, lockers or similar facilities at no charge or cost for the temporary checking of firearms by persons carrying firearms under section 6106(b) or 6109 or for the checking of other dangerous weapons that are not otherwise prohibited by law. Any individual checking a firearm, dangerous weapon or an item deemed to be a dangerous weapon at a court facility must be issued a receipt. Notice of the location of the facility shall be posted as required under subsection (d).

(f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Court facility." The courtroom of a court of record; a courtroom of a community court; the courtroom of a magisterial district judge; a courtroom of the Philadelphia Municipal Court; a courtroom of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court; a courtroom of the Traffic Court of Philadelphia; judge's chambers; witness rooms; jury deliberation rooms; attorney conference rooms; prisoner holding cells; offices of court clerks, the district attorney, the sheriff and probation and parole officers; and any adjoining corridors.

2014, P.L.33, No.16, eff. 60 days)

Title 18 § 5122. Weapons or Implements for Escape.

(a) Offenses Defined.—

(1) Except as provided under 61 Pa.C.S. § 5902(e.1) (relating to contraband prohibited), a person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he unlawfully introduces within a detention facility, correctional institution or mental hospital, or unlawfully provides an inmate thereof with any weapon, tool, implement, or other thing which may be used for escape. Oct. 24, 2018, P.L.749, No.123, eff. 60 days)

Note: I can't find a definition of a Mental Hospital in PA law. Be aware that many hospitals may have a mental ward. Would it just be the mental ward or the whole hospital? Use caution.

PA Admin Code Title 49 Chapter 61. Use of Public Areas Outside the Capitol Complex—Statement of Policy

Title 49 § 61.1. Additional Jurisdiction Over Properties.

The public areas of One Penn Center, 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg, under the jurisdiction of the Department of State and subject to this chapter, include the interior offices of the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, State Athletic Commission and leased offices and facilities related thereto. 1998, 28 Pa.B. 382

Title 49 § 61.3. Firearms and Weapons.

The possession of firearms or other prohibited offensive weapons as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 908(c) (relating to prohibited offense weapons), while on the leased premises of the Department with the exception of State or Federal officers, in connection with the performance of an official duty, is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to attorneys listed as counsel of record in connection with the offering of an exhibit in any administrative proceeding, if the counsel of record who intends to offer the item as an exhibit, has obtained written authorization from a hearing examiner to do so. 1998, 28 Pa.B. 382

Title 18 § 6106. Firearms Not to be Carried Without a License.

(a) Offense defined.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony of the third degree.

(2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

(15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:

(i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

(ii) The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth. Oct. 17, 2008, P.L.1628, No.131, eff. 60 days)

You can read an article by the McShane Law of Harrisburg PA on Places Off Limits in Pennsylvania It gives a great overview of the law. McShane Firm LLC

Note: See Title 18 - § 6106 for exceptions to carrying firearms and **Sportsman Firearm Permit.**

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the **USA Page**.

Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

"NO"

"Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the **No Guns = No Money Cards** and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them."

"No Firearm" signs in Pennsylvania have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you

refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO"

Title 18 § 6122. Proof of License and Exception.

(a) General Rule.--When carrying a firearm concealed on or about one's person or in a vehicle, an individual licensed to carry a firearm shall, upon lawful demand of a law enforcement officer, produce the license for inspection. Failure to produce such license either at the time of arrest or at the preliminary hearing shall create a rebuttable presumption of nonlicensure.

Apr. 22, 1997, P.L.73, No.5, eff. 60 days)

Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas & St. /Nat. Forests

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: **YES** **Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) & (n)**
(Concealed Only)

State/National Forests: **YES** **Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) & (n)**

State WMA: YES **Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) & (n)**

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES**

***Notice:** If State Park Carry is Legal in this state and if that state park is located on a lake created by the US Army Corp of Engineers (COE) who owns the land and leases it to the state for that park the park is Off Limits to the legal carrying of firearms per federal law. **36 CFR 327.13** District Commanders received this Memorandum detailing how they could authorize someone to carry on (COE) property. The (COE) has also put out a Pamphlet on carrying firearms on (COE) Property. They do not post their property you must know the boundaries. Hunting **is usually** allowed duing hunting season.

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

Notice: You can't carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle **unless you have a permit issued by Pennsylvania or any other state.** Open carry is legal in Pennsylvania without a permit but you must have a permit to carry a firearm in a vehicle. See (11) and (15) below in statute Title 18 § 6106 below.

From the PA State Police FAQs.

Are there exceptions to carrying a firearm without a Pennsylvania License to Carry?

A License to Carry Firearms allows you to carry a firearm concealed on your body or in a vehicle. Carrying a firearm in a vehicle or concealed on the body, except in your home or fixed place of business, without a valid license is a felony of the third degree.

It is a misdemeanor of the first degree when a person without a valid license carries a firearm in a vehicle or concealed on their body, except in their home or fixed place of business, if they committed no other criminal violation and are otherwise eligible to possess a license.

Title 18 § 6106 Firearms Not to be Carried Without a License

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony of the third degree.

(2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

(11) Any person while carrying a firearm in any vehicle, which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued license for that firearm which has been issued under the laws of the United States or any other state.

(15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:

(i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

(ii) The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth. Oct. 17, 2008, P.L.1628, No.131, eff. 60 days)

Note: There is debate about having to unload when you exit the vehicle to go into a motel room or other place you have rented or a family member or friend's personal property to spend the night.

Federal Law:

§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console. (Added Pub. L. 99–360, § 1(a), July 8, 1986, 100 Stat. 766.)

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal except a valid permit/license is needed to carry a loaded handgun openly or concealed in a vehicle and for openly carrying in the city of Philadelphia. Places as listed in the "Places Off Limits" above apply to those who open carry. See the "RV/Car Carry Without a Permit" section for carrying in a vehicle.

The state preempts all firearm laws in the state and local authorities can't have Laws/Ordinances against open carry except cities of the 1st class were given exemptions to some parts of preemption. ~~Philadelphia has laws/ordinances concerning open carry and only those with a valid permit/license to carry can open carry in Philadelphia.~~ Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 18.

Notice: 6/25/2025 The Pennsylvania Superior Court has ruled that the Philly ban on open carry without a permit unconstitutional. You can read that decision **Here.**

You can read the "Open Carry Guidance Document for Local Law Enforcement" put out by the Chiefs of Police Association in Pennsylvania **Here**.

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with the **State's RKBA** Organization/s. Also see "Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases" Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

State Preemption

Note: Pennsylvania **Supreme Court Decision** stating Preemption Statutes Constitutional and override any local restrictions on firearms. (11/2024)

Title 18 § 6120. Limitation on the Regulation of Firearms and Ammunition.

(a) General rule.-- No county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when. carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth

(a.1) No Right of Action.--

(1) No political subdivision may bring or maintain an action at law or in equity against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer for damages, abatement, injunctive relief or any other relief or remedy resulting from or relating to either the lawful design or manufacture of firearms or ammunition or the lawful marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a political subdivision from bringing or maintaining an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by the political subdivision.

(b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Political subdivision." The term shall include any home rule charter municipality, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township or school district. Nov. 6, 2014, P.L.2921, No.192, eff. 60 days)

Title 53 § 2962. Limitation on Municipal Powers.

(a) Powers granted by statute.--With respect to the following subjects, the home rule charter shall not giveany power or authority to the municipality contrary to or in limitation or enlargement of powers granted by statutes which are applicable to a class or classes of municipalities:

(g) Regulation of firearms.--A municipality shall not enact any ordinance or take any other action dealing with the regulation of the transfer, ownership, transportation or possession of firearms. 2021, P.L.35, No.9

Deadly Force Laws

Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
Crimes and Offenses (Title 18)
Part I. Preliminary Provisions

Chapter 5. General Principles of Justification

§ 501. Definitions.
§ 502. Justification a defense.
§ 503. Justification generally.
§ 504. Execution of public duty.
§ 505. Use of force in self-protection.
§ 506. Use of force for the protection of other persons.
§ 507. Use of force for the protection of property.
§ 508. Use of force in law enforcement.
§ 509. Use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline or safety of others.
§ 510. Justification in property crimes.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES **(There is no law stating it is illegal)**

Note: A "YES" above means you can carry into places like described below. "NO" means you can't. Handgunlaw.us definition of "Restaurant Carry" is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday's or Red Lobster unless posted with "No Gun Signs." This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

Title 18, § 908.1 Use or Possession of Electric or Electronic Incapacitation Device.

(b) Self defense.--A person may possess and use an electric or electronic incapacitation device in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of the person or the person's property pursuant to Chapter 5 (relating to general principles of justification) if the electric or electronic incapacitation device **is labeled with or accompanied by clearly written instructions as to its use and the damages involved in its use.**

Nov. 6, 2002, P.L.1096, No.132, eff. 60 days)

Note: Labeled or Accompanied is not defined. If it has paperwork with it I would carry it if not labeled with the clearly written instructions as to its use.

LEOSA State Information

Retired Law Enforcement Officers Identification Act (Information and Links)

37 § 221.1 Pennsylvania Administrative Rules on LEOSA

Listing of RLEIA Firearms Instructor with Contact Info

Pennsylvania Retired Officer Concealed Carry Acknowledgement Form

See the LEOSA Section on the **USA Page** at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

Pennsylvania Supreme Ct Ruling on Preemption

Pennsylvania Superior Ct Ruling that PA residents must have a PA Issued Permit to carry in PA.

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Ct Ruling on Preemption and Cities Banning Firearms in City Parks.

PA Supreme Court – Warrantless Vehicle Justified on Probable Cause and/or Exigent Circumstances

PA AG Opinion on Casinos and Authority to Ban Firearms in State Licenses Casinos.

PA Superior Ct Ruling on Carry Weapons In Schools

PA Supreme Ct – Mere Act of Carrying Not Suspicion of Criminal Activity (5/31/19**)**

PA Supreme Ct. - Sometimes a Visible Firearm can be a Concealed Firearm. (2/10/21)

Prince Law Offices Blog Post on above Ruling.

Commonwealth Court Ruling on Pittsburgh Mag Ban Violates State Preemption. 5/2022)

PA Supreme Court - St Preemption is Constitutional and Applicable to Local Governments. (11/2024)

PA Superior Ct. – Philadelphia Ban on Open Carry Without a Permit Unconstitutional. (6/25/2025)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: **YES** **Parking Lot/Non Sterile Area of Terminal OK. No Law Stating it is Illegal.**

Training Valid for: **No set time period. No training required in PA.**

Time Period to Establish Residency: **Upon obtaining a Pennsylvania Drivers License/ID.**

Minimum Age for Permit/License: **21**

Permit/License Info Public Information: **NO**

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: **18 § 6109**

State Firearm Laws: **18 § 6101 thru 18 § 6142**

State Deadly Force Laws: **18 § 501 thru 18 § 510**

State Knife Laws: **18 § § 907, 18 § 908, 18 § 912 & 18 § 913**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **18 § 907 & 18 § 908.1**

Body Armor Laws: **18 § 907c & 18 § 908.1**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO** **18 § 6109.**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **No Statute Found**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES**

PA Hunting & Trapping Digest & PA Statutes Sec. 2525

Notes

What PA Considers A Loaded Firearm

Title 18 § 6102 Definitions.

"Loaded." A firearm is loaded if the firing chamber, the nondetachable magazine or, in the case of a revolver, any of the chambers of the cylinder contain ammunition capable of being fired. In the case of a firearm which utilizes a detachable magazine, the term shall mean a magazine suitable for use in said firearm which magazine contains such ammunition and has been inserted in the firearm or is in the same container or, where the container has multiple compartments, the same compartment thereof as the firearm. If the magazine is inserted into a pouch, holder, holster or other protective device that provides for a complete and secure enclosure of the ammunition, then the pouch, holder, holster or other protective device shall be deemed to be a separate compartment. June 28, 2011, P.L.48, No.10, eff. 60 days)

State Emergency Powers

Title 18 § 6107. Prohibited Conduct During Emergency. (Still looking for Governor Authority)

(a) General rule.--No person shall carry a firearm upon the public streets or upon any public property during an emergency proclaimed by a State or municipal governmental executive unless that person is:

(1) Actively engaged in a defense of that person's life or property from peril or threat.

(2) Licensed to carry firearms under section 6109 (relating to licenses) or is exempt from licensing under section 6106(b) (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license).

(b) Seizure, Taking and Confiscation.--Except as otherwise provided under subsection (a) and notwithstanding the provisions of 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to Commonwealth services) or any other provision of law to the contrary, no firearm, accessory or ammunition may be seized, taken or confiscated during an emergency unless the seizure, taking or confiscation would be authorized absent the emergency.

(c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Accessory." Any scope, sight, bipod, sling, light, magazine, clip or other related item that is attached to or necessary for the operation of a firearm.

"Firearm." The term includes any weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or receiver of any weapon.

Oct. 17, 2008, P.L.1628, No.131, eff. 60 days)

PA Administrative Code Title 4 Chapter 3
§ 3.25. Specific Responsibilities.

(aa) Pennsylvania State Police. The Pennsylvania State Police shall have the following responsibilities:

(3) Emergency response activities. Emergency response activities shall include the following:

(i) Deploy emergency response team representatives to the Harrisburg and three Area Emergency Operations Centers of the Commonwealth, as requested by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, for the coordination of State Police emergency response activities.

(ii) Collect and report, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, information on major or significant disaster effects and problems including, particularly, facts relating to

human deaths and injuries, loss of electric power, highway traffic disruption, maintenance of law and order and unusual occurrences or dangers.

(iii) Collect and maintain, in disaster situations, official Statewide records of dead and missing persons, to include periodic reporting of summary statistics to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

(iv) Supply, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, as requested by means of the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network and other State Police facilities, assistance in the dissemination of essential disaster information and instructions.

(v) Supply, as requested, police assistance in State, county and local emergency operations.

(vi) Assist in the establishment and operation of emergency mortuary facilities and services including, particularly, aid in identification of the dead.

(vii) Implement, upon request, suspension of the sale **of firearms**, explosives and combustibles. 1980, 10 Pa.B. 3571.

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See **US Code 42-5207** for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Pennsylvania 18 Y/O Title 18 § 6110.1.

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

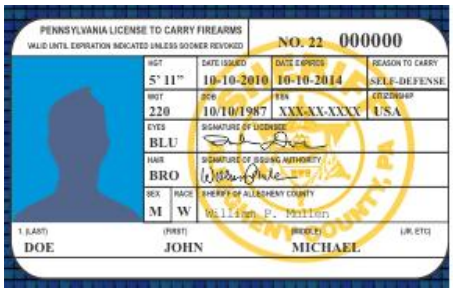
Note: In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See "RV/Car Carry" Section Above for more information.

Permit/License Image

This is the new format for all Resident and Non Resident Licenses that PA will Issue. Some Sheriffs add their name and contact info to the back of the licenses he issues. Most counties do not do this and the reverse is blank.


SP 4-129(1-2010) ☐ NEW ☑ RENEW ☐ DUPL/CORRECTION NO. 12-00000021
PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS
1. NAME(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (JR.,ETC.)
SLIDER, GARY J
2. ADDRESS
455 MAPLE AVENUE, NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV 26155
PHOTO
3.Point Of Contact Phone Number (FOR LAWENFORCEMENT UE ONLY) 1-304-266-0850
4.DATE ISSUED 11/16/2010
5.DATE EXPIRES 11/16/2015
6. REASON TO CARRY Self Defense
7.DOB 11/16/1988
8.HGT 510
9.WGT 200
10.EYES BLU
11.HAIR BRN
12.SEX M
13.RACE W
14 U.S. CITIZEN Y
15.COUNTY OF CITIZENSHIP US
16.IMMIGRATION ID NO.(IF APP)
17.SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE Gary J. Slider
18.SIG OF ISSUING AUTHORITY Staci A. Standiford
19.SHERIFF OR CHIEF OF POLICE OF Butler


PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS
VALID UNTIL EXPIRATION INDICATED UNLESS SOONER REVOKED
NO. 22 000000
HGT 5' 11" | DATE ISSUED 10-10-2010 | DATE EXPIRES 10-10-2014 | REASON TO CARRY SELF-DEFENSE
WGT 220 | DOB 10/10/1987 | SSN XXX-XX-XXXX | CITIZENSHIP USA
EYES BLU | SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE
HAIR BRO | SIGNATURE OF ISSUING AUTHORITY
SEX M | RACE W | SHERIFF OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY William P. Mullen
1. (LAST) DOE | (FIRST) JOHN | (MIDDLE) MICHAEL | (JR, ETC)

Updates to this Page

Archive of Previous Updates 3

9/6/2024 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most

Up to Date Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.

12/1/2024 – State Preemption Section Updated. PA Supreme Court Decision Added to AG Opinions/Court Case Section.

1/1/2025 - Note on Armed Campus Organization Link Which Has Information on Every States Campus Carry Statute/Regulation/Rules/Policies Added to Places Off Limits Section.

3/7/2025 – All Links Checked.

6/12/2025 – Pennsylvania Now Honors the Virginia. Virginia Added to Listing of States Pennsylvania Honors.

7/1/2025 – Notice Added to Open Carry Section. Court Case Added to AG/Court Case Section. All Links Checked.

8/8/2025 – Notice Added to Beginning of Places Off Limits as Philly Mayor Signed executive order Banning Firearms even those with a valid Permit to Carry from Park, Pools etc. Preemption Will Cause This to be Struck Down but use Caution. See Notice.

10/15/2025 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Published Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.

1/20/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.

3/15/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.

6/7/2026 – All Links Checked.

7/3/2026 – Reciprocity Link Updated.

9/5/2026 – All Links Checked.